

# East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association

## **HCPA Coordination Group Meeting**

Thursday, November 20, 2003

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

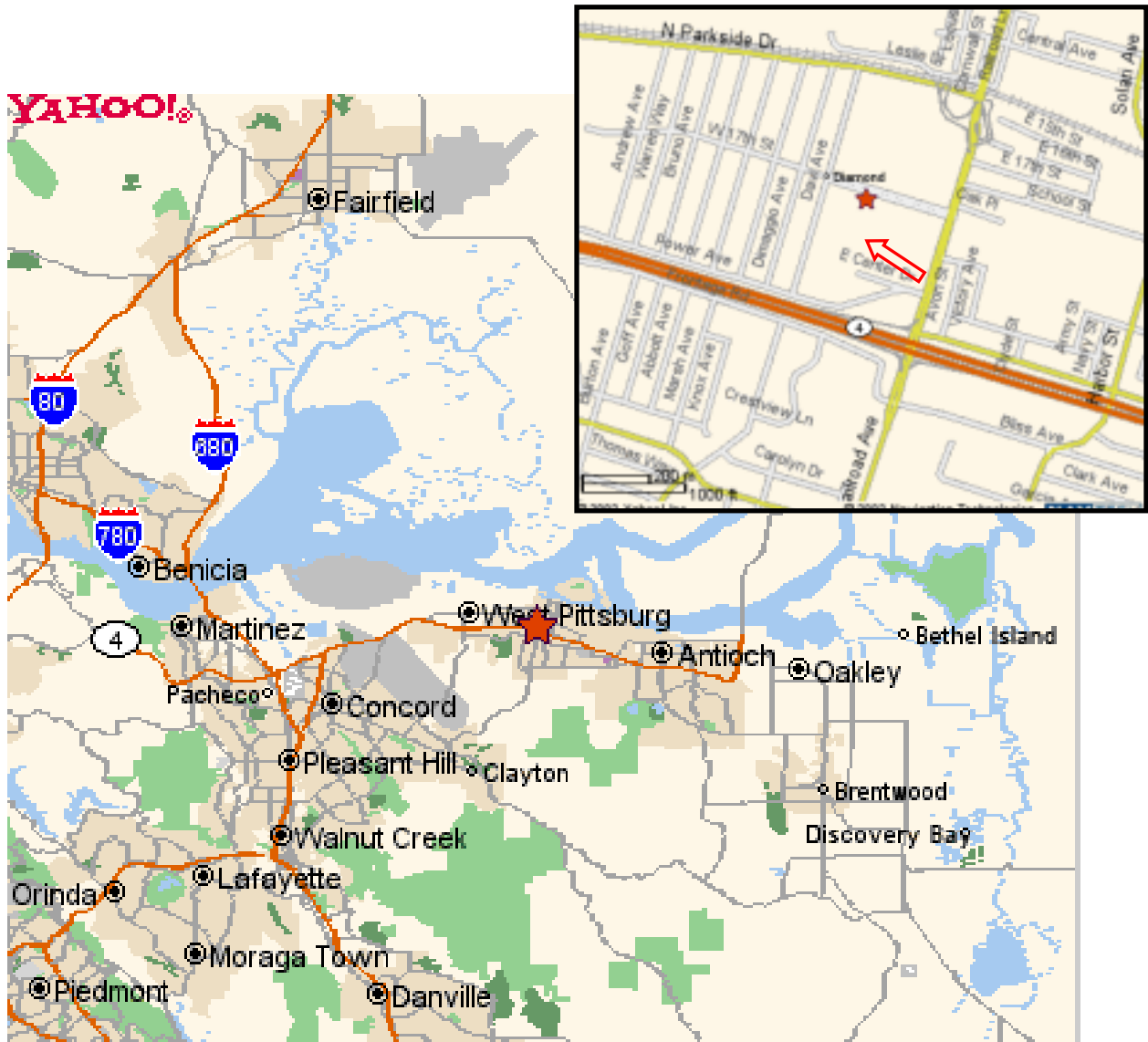
City of Pittsburg Council Chambers  
65 Civic Drive in Pittsburg, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
(see map on reverse)

### **Agenda**

- 1:00 Introductions. Review contents of meeting packet.
- 1:05 Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the October 16, 2003 Coordination Group meeting.
- 1:10 Overview Presentation: Preliminary Working Draft of East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP
- CD-ROMs of the draft document will be handed out at the meeting (if you can't attend but want the document, contact staff)
  - Powerpoint presentation on work-to-date included in the preliminary draft document
  - Overview of pending products (economics, updated framework document, etc.)
  - Discuss comment period and comment methods
- 2:30 Report from Economic Subcommittee
- 2:40 Review and comment on list of questions to be posed to Science Advisory Panel
- 2:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming Coordination Group meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburg Council Chambers (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays):  
Thursday, December 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
Thursday, January 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.  
*HCPA Science Advisory Panel: Tuesday, December 9, 2003, 11am to 3 pm*  
*HCPA Executive Governing Committee: Thursday, January 22, 2003, 5:30 pm*
- 2:55 Public comment.
- 3:00 Adjourn.

*Times are approximate. If you have questions about this agenda or desire additional meeting materials, you may contact John Kopchik of the Contra Costa County Community Development Department at 925-335-1227.*

## Map and Directions to Pittsburg City Hall 65 Civic Drive



### Directions from I-680, Central County

- 1) Take Hwy 4 East toward Antioch/Stockton
- 2) Follow Hwy East over the hill (Willow Pass)
- 3) Exit Railroad Ave. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> exit after the hill)
- 4) At the end of the exit ramp, turn left on Railroad Ave.
- 5) Turn left at the second intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 6) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 7) Meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

### Directions from Antioch and points east

- 1) Take Hwy 4 West toward Martinez/Richmond
- 2) Exit Railroad Ave.
- 3) At the end of the exit ramp, turn right on Railroad Ave.
- 4) Turn left at the next intersection, East Center Drive (signs for various city offices will also point you this way)
- 5) Immediately bear right into the large parking lot next to City Hall
- 6) Meeting is on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

# DRAFT MEETING RECORD

## East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan Association (HCPA) Coordination Group Meeting

Thursday, October 16, 2003  
1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

City of Pittsburg Council Chambers

**1:00 Welcome and Introductions.** Meeting attendees introduced themselves. Coordination Group members and staff in attendance were:

Seth Adams, Save Mount Diablo	Sheila Larsen, US Fish & Wildlife Service
Chris Barton, City of Pittsburg	Suzanne Marr, US EPA
Paola Bernazzani, Jones and Stokes	CeCe Sellen, CCC Public Works
Paul Campos, Home Builders Assoc.	John Slaymaker, Greenbelt Alliance
Mike Daley, Sierra Club	Jay Torres-Muga, Seeno
Janice Gan, CA Dept. of Fish and Game	Dick Vrmeer, CA Native Plant Society
Jim Gwerder, CCC Citizens Land Alliance	Mike Vukelich, CCC Farm Bureau
John Kopchik, CCC Community Dev.	Carl Wilcox, CA Dept. of Fish and Game

Also in attendance: John Hopkins, Institute for Ecological Health, and Cheryl Morgan

**1:05 Review and approve Draft Meeting Record of the August 21, 2003 Coordination Group meeting.** The Draft Meeting Record was accepted without change.

**1:10 Updates:**

- **Executive Governing Committee meeting set for October 23:** John Kopchik reported that the meeting originally scheduled for September 16 had been rescheduled for October 23.
- **Next Science Advisory Panel meeting set for December 9:** Announcement made.
- **Wetlands permitting:** John Kopchik explained the 6-county effort to explore with the Army Corps of Engineers and others opportunities for integrating wetlands permitting with HCPs. John Hopkins and Suzanne Marr added additional information. Two coordination meetings had been held among staff and two more are planned. In response to a question, John Kopchik clarified that, though the Principles of Participation indicate that assurances from FWS on wetlands permits were a satisfactory “fall-back” to including wetlands permits, that the HCPA continued to aim for including wetlands permits.
- **Northern California Conservation Planning Conference to be held December 4 in Vacaville:** Announcement made.

**1:30 Continued discussion: preliminary analysis of funding sources for implementing the HCP/NCCP (see the economics memos in the July, August, and (especially) September packets). Report from economic subcommittee, if that meeting occurs in advance.** The economic subcommittee had not yet met, so a report from that body was deferred. Some discussion ensued concerning whether comparing development fees proposed under the HCP to the existing impact fee burden was an apples to apples

comparison or not. The HCP fees would deliver a permit, and the costs of obtaining such permits under the current system have not been factored in to the analysis of the existing fee burden. As a result, the following question was posed: would it be helpful, presuming funds could be found to do the work, to attempt to estimate the costs of regulatory compliance under the current system? (in other words, would it be useful to have some kind of cost-benefit analysis of the HCP?). A mixture of responses were received. Paul Campos suggested it might be useful, but wouldn't be a top priority. Jay Torres-Muga indicated it probably would not be useful.

- 1:50 Discuss the framework of the preliminary Adaptive Management component of the HCP/NCCP (draft figures in meeting packet).** Paola Bernazzani provided an overview of the adaptive management framework under formulation for the East Contra Costa County HCP/NCCP. Ms. Bernazzani relied on the draft diagrams that been provided to make her presentation. Coordination Group members engaged in substantive discussion and posed a number of general and specific questions, only a few of which are summarized below. Dick Vrmeer explained the importance of such a process to the success of complicated endeavors, and suggested re-naming the approach “Knowledge-Based Management”. Ms. Bernazzani indicated that the regulatory framework probably required that we continue to call the process “adaptive management”, but the proactive elements of Mr. Vrmeer’s suggestion could be part of the process regardless of how it is named. Many participants were eager to learn what aspects of the permit conditions would be affected by adaptive management and which were fixed (no answer could be provided at that time—the working draft version of the Adaptive Management Strategy would be available in a month and might answer some of the questions, though clearly this is a major issue that will need to be resolved over a number of meetings). Other attendees were concerned that the plan would have too much inertia to actually adapt to information learned or mistakes made during implementation. The group thanked Ms. Bernazzani for her presentation.
- 2:20 Presentation and discussion: overview of updates to the landcover map, to the impact analysis, and to the conservation strategy diagrams.** Due to the shortness of time, John Kopchik quickly went over a slide presentation that previewed some of the new mapping products that would be presented the following month. He assured the group that all of these matters, including the flexible permit area idea, would be discussed at future meetings.
- 2:50 Confirm upcoming meeting dates. Upcoming Coordination Group meetings are scheduled as follows for the City of Pittsburg Council Chambers (usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays):**  
    **Thursday, November 20, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**  
    **Thursday, December 18, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.**
- 2:55 Public comment.** None
- 3:00 Adjourn.**

**East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservation Plan**  
Science Advisory Panel Meeting #4

9 December 2003  
11:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.  
Lake Temescal Regional Recreation Area, Oakland (not yet confirmed)

**Tentative Discussion Points**

1. Prioritization of covered species, communities, and land acquisition priorities in the conservation strategy
  - Identification of any major data gaps that could affect design and success of the conservation strategy
  - The revised conservation strategy for the preliminary draft initial permit area focuses land acquisition in Zones 2, 3, and 4 and de-emphasizes land acquisition in Zones 5 and 6. Is this approach warranted biologically given funding constraints?
  - What are the biological trade-offs in emphasizing land acquisition near Mount Diablo (Subzones 4a, 4f, 4g, and 4h) versus in grassland near Byron Airport (Subzone 5a and 5b)? Are these trade-offs warranted given funding limitations?
  - In the cultivated agriculture area (Zone 6), the conservation strategy may include the use of multi-year contracts with farmers to maintain and enhance suitable habitat for Swainson's Hawk (e.g., raise certain kind of crops, plant trees as windbreaks and nesting habitat; as opposed to permanent conservation easements with crop restrictions). Is this approach biologically valid?
2. Ability of adaptive management to guide implementation
  - Will the adaptive management process outlined in Chapter 6 ensure that good science is applied to implementation of the HCP?
  - If not, how might the process be changed given funding limitations?
3. Ability of adaptive management to address data gaps
  - Are there major data gaps in the plan that are likely to influence adaptive management during implementation?
  - Is the plan adequately structured to address these data gaps and other uncertainties during implementation?
4. Ecological relationships and processes most likely to influence adaptive management for covered species and communities
  - What specific hypotheses or management principles are most important for the Implementing Entity to test in the adaptive management process (i.e., what pilot projects or directed research are most important?)
5. Monitoring: ability of the adaptive management strategy to evaluate the status of covered species and communities and determine whether a management response is warranted

- What surrogate measures might the Implementing Entity monitor to assess the regional status and trends of covered species and communities?
- What surrogate measures might the Implementing Entity measure to monitor the status and trends of ecological processes?

6. Discussion on compiling the outcomes of the four Science Advisory Panel meetings into one document organized by subject matter.